

Franciscan Daughters of Mary

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Rose Garden Home Mission
Friends of the Rose Garden Mission
Rose Garden Center for Hope & Healing
Medical / Dental

Summer/Fall 2023

Tonia's Story

Tonia is a young woman with 6 children. We have known Tonia ever since her Dad needed help with her when she was about 9 years old. She could very often be found among the teenagers who came to the Mission for a treat after school.

And when she was pregnant with her first child, she knew where to come to get help. Sr. Mary Joseph was her favorite, though. It's because sister looked at her one day after Tonia mentioned that she was going to use contraceptives and said, "O no you are not! You stay away from those things, they could cause an abortion. They are nothing but bad for you!" that she still to this day refuses to take contraceptives!

Tonia, just like so many young women today, did not really understand what true love was and she had been repeatedly disappointed, and more recently found herself in an abusive relationship.

When he was finally incarcerated, she found herself alone and homeless and none of her relatives would take her and her children in.

She tried reaching out to some agencies in the area but had not heard anything and had no place to go. She was in danger of losing the three children who were still with her, and all her hopes of saving her other children from an abusive foster situation were going to be lost.

At a total loss of what to do, Tonia reached out to the Rose Garden. Because we don't have a shelter or residency program, we did everything we could to get in



contact with agencies who do. One agency offered to put her in a hotel for a few nights, but after a strange man chased her children down the hall and she received several strange visits at her door there, Mother went and picked the family up.

Thankfully, through the generosity of some friends, we were able to find Tonia and her children a nicer, safer hotel while she waited to hear back from the other ministries.



One local women's shelter, it turns out, could not accept her because there were too many children and not enough beds to accommodate them and another program that helps families could not help her because their rule is that there must be 2 adults (usually a mom and a dad).

She did get on a waiting list for low income housing, and because she was fleeing abuse was bumped to the top of the list, but it was still going to take a few weeks and her hotel stay was coming to a close.

Thanks be to God, A Priest we know offered to let her family stay in one of the

empty buildings on his church's property. This gave her the break she needed in a safe place for her and the children while she was waiting for the housing to opened up.

During this difficult time, the sisters kept in close contact with Tonia, making sure she and her children had everything they needed as they waited for a more permanent home.

One day, she took the St. Benedict's Cross Medal we gave her and standing outside in front of the house looked up and asked aloud for God to please help her. While she was praying her phone rang, but she stayed in prayer until she was finished. When she looked at her phone, it was the housing facility calling to tell her that she could move in!! If you ask her today, she will tell you that God did it!

She now has a 3 bedroom, 2 story apartment with a backyard and a nearby playground, a job and car! Because of the love and support she continues to receive, she feels that the sisters are her family. She sends pictures of the kids almost daily, and the sisters enjoy visiting and spending time with the family now and then.

Grateful thanks to everyone who assisted us in helping her, with hotel stay, gas cards, store cards to buy groceries, and offering to drive her wherever she needed to go!! Know that you have made a huge difference in her life and in the lives of her six children!!

*Name Changed for privacy





A meditation from one of the sisters

One day at prayer I was in quite a state. What a mess this world is. So many people are in need. So many lies are swirling about our culture. So many people are hurting physically, emotionally and spiritually. So many lives are lost through abortion, euthanasia, war. So many people are being used and abused. So many aspects of civilization as we know it are teetering on the brink of destruction. Even our Church seems to be on a stormy sea and how often we would cry out with the apostles, "Lord! Save us! We are perishing!"

Completely overwhelmed, I cried out to the Lord, knowing how limited and little I am. What can I do anyway? I can't help all these people! As my soul settled down and I listened, it seemed to me that the Lord said, "*No, you cannot help all of them, but you helped that one man get food, clothing and a bed.*"

Such love and kindness in His voice, inaudible but to the heart, It struck me again how much the Lord Loves each individual person, as if they were they only person in the whole world. He loved that one man with His whole Heart. He loves each of us with His whole Heart. He is God, He can do that.

As I thought through my day, it was as if the Lord pointed out to me several individuals that I helped that day and how much He loved each one. "*Because of you, this baby has a clean diaper tonight and can sleep in peace.*" "*Because of you, this little girl now has clothes that fit her.*" "*Because of you that person is leading a better life.*" "*Whatever you do the least of my brothers you did to Me.*"

How many times He reminds us of this in our daily life, as He provides everything that we need. As sisters, taking a vow of poverty means that if the Lord doesn't provide it, we simply do not have it. But how faithful He is to provide, even in the little details of Life!

One day recently, He reminded us of this repeatedly: One of us was no longer able to get a much needed medication through our insurance anymore, and the exact medication was donated to the clinic that day!

One of the sisters sorely needed new sandals, but she has a foot problem and needed a special orthotic sandal. Well, that same day a pair of these special sandals were donated!

A Sister lamented that we did not have a security camera on the far side of the building...and one was donated that day. Our neighbors had been asking and asking for ankle socks, which we didn't have, and that day a man from another ministry brought two cases of ankle socks, sharing with us, "I just felt like the Holy Spirit wanted me to bring these to you all."

And if this wasn't enough, cases of a specialty cracker were donated that day, the only kind that one of the sisters with dietary limitation could eat!

How true are St Augustine's words, "God loves each of us as if there were only one of us" and how often we forget this incredible truth! We always want to do something big, to be something big. But if we can come to understand how much God loves each of us even as we are, then everything matters, even the things that no one else will ever see. "And your Father who sees in secret will reward you." Mt 6:6





“You are a priest forever, in the line of Melchizedek”

Congratulations to Fr. Peter Rusciolelli, ordained a Priest of Jesus Christ on June 17th, 2023! Fr. Peter is Sr. Therese’s brother, and was ordained for the Diocese of Charlotte, NC. Please continue to pray for Father Rusciolelli as he begins his new mission as “Alter-Christus”



Please Note: As we are finding that so many of our dear friends and volunteers are unaware, we would like republish a list of companies that offer their employees huge travel benefits to obtain an abortion. (we’re talking thousands of dollars!) In a “Post-Roe” America, it is becoming ever more important to boycott these companies whenever possible, especially in states like Kentucky, where abortion is currently illegal and women will have to travel if they want to get an abortion. The following list was shared in Northern Kentucky Right to Life’s September 2022 newsletter.

- Accenture
- DoorDash**
- Meta
- Adidas**
- Duolingo
- Microsoft**
- Adobe
- Goldman Sachs
- Netflix**
- AirBnb**
- Google**
- Nike**
- Alaska Airlines
- GrubHub
- OK Cupid
- Amazon**
- Gucci
- Paramount
- American Express
- Hewlett-Packard
- Patagonia
- Apple**
- H&M
- PayPal**
- AT&T**
- HPE
- Procter & Gamble
- Bank of America
- Intuit
- Reddit
- Box.com
- Johnson & Johnson
- Salesforce
- Bumble
- JPMorgan
- Sony
- Buzzfeed
- Kroger**
- Starbucks**
- Chobani
- Levi Strauss
- Tesla
- Citigroup
- LiveNation
- Uber**
- Comcast
- Lyft**
- Vox Media
- Condé Nast
- Macy’s**
- Walmart**
- Dick’s Sporting Goods
- Mastercard
- Warner Bros**
- Disney**
- Match Group
- Yelp
- Zillow

P.S.—Even though Target is not listed here, they recently hired a satanist to design a line of LGBTQ+ children’s clothing. We will have nothing to do with them.



A diaper company that celebrates and protects every life.

Meet **EveryLife**, the pro-life diaper company with a very simple purpose: to create high-performing diapers for every little miracle. EveryLife believes every child is a gift from above that deserves to be protected and celebrated.

EveryLife is partnering with us to offer 10% off your first order!

Use code RGM10 at checkout.

everylife
changing diapers. changing lives.

Rose Garden

HOME MISSION



I can't hardly put into words how much I appreciate the love and support that they give! Mother and Sister are so passionate about helping the community! We are so Blessed to have the Sisters. Thank You God for them.



The beautiful nuns that serve at the Rose Garden, they're a blessing to everyone they encounter. It is a wonderful place, with wonderful people. And trust me, you need not fear any judgement from anyone there! I always find lots of fellowship there.



They are always there with love and a smile



The nuns and volunteers are the sweetest and such loving people



The Nuns and volunteers are a blessing for our community, as we all can fall on hard times. I have been there a few times when I found myself between jobs and honestly wouldn't have had anything to eat if it wasn't for their kindness and devotion to serving the people. They help with food, no questions asked, no ID required and even have drinks and snacks while you wait as well.

This place is God sent to be pure facts. When you need help they are there to help.



Very blessed to have met the sisters. They gave our baby a lovely Baby Basket and a beautiful bed for her with roses carved into it. Fitting for a little English rose. Thank you sisters for your generosity and kindness.



Congratulations to our friend Will Fuller, who was recently accepted as a Seminarian for the Diocese of Covington! Will is a volunteer for the Mission as well as a member of the "Special Forces" for Mary's Pro-life Bootcamp. Please join us in praying for Will as he seeks to follow our Lord's call.



Mission Needs:

- Diapers sizes 4, 5, 6 & pull-ups
- Toddler and Children's clothing & shoes (new/gently used, sizes 18mo.-14/16)
- Blankets
- Coats, hats and gloves (kids and adults)
- Car-seats (5-point harness for infants and toddlers)
- Baby Formula
- Donations for Thanksgiving Turkeys
- Christmas gifts



One neighbor was elated to share with Sister how grateful she was for the bananas she had just received. She said that as she pulled into the mission's lot she prayed, "O God, please let there be bananas today, we really need them." As she approached she was delighted to find ...bananas for everyone to take home!!



Our neighbor, Matthew, made this pirate ship for our volunteer, Mark on his Birthday!

"I go there for various reasons... They're always friendly and never look down on you for the situation you find yourself in."

One of our neighbors was having a very rough day until ...



Another neighbor, smiling and expressing his gratitude to the sisters, pointed to the clothing rack and said "From the top of my head to the bottom of my feet, everything I am wearing came from that rack!"



"Absolutely appreciate and have nothing but good thing to say about the Mission. They make me feel like I'm part of a family there, and my 2 year old considers the sisters her friends. I thank God for places like this."



Thanksgiving Giveaway

November 21, 2013

Set up days

Nov. - 17, 18, 20

Christmas Giveaway,

December 19

Set up days

December - 8, 9, 15, 16, 18

It's that time of year again!

Yes, the Holidays are quickly approaching, and our annual Giveaways are just around the corner!



It all began a number of years ago when a friend called us up and said "My Boss bought too many turkeys for his employees this year. Can you use 20 turkeys?" Being Franciscan, we never turn away a gift from anyone, so of course we said, "Yes!"

A day or two later a girl scout troop called and asked if there was anything they could help with. Mother told them, "Well, we have 20 turkeys, do you think you could get 20 bag of groceries?" and the humble beginnings of the Thanksgiving Give-away was born!

The year following this, Mother called this businessman again and asked if he could help out with some turkeys. He said "Sure, how many do you need?" He was more than a little shocked when mother replied "Oh, about 300."

After picking his jaw off of the floor, he offered to get some friends to pool their resources to get the turkeys for us! This man and his friends personally handed out all the turkeys at the Giveaway that year. After counting up the total number of how many folks arrived and received a turkey that day, Mother called our new friend and



asked if he knew how many we gave away. A bit confused at such a seemingly obvious question, he replied "Well, we bought 300, so I guess we gave away 300. . ." Mother replied, "How about 375?"

After all these years, our Thanksgiving Giveaway has grown quite a bit; Last year we gave away 460 turkeys and fixin's! If you'd like to help us provide Thanksgiving turkeys for our neighbors, simply include "Turkeys" in the memo of your donation.



And before we know it, Christmas will be here! Isn't it funny that Christmas always seems to come in so quickly, so quietly, so unexpectedly, just like the first Christmas did? Our first Christmas Giveaway started out small, just a few hundred children. But what a glorious day! And our volunteers were witnesses to a miracle that day! One of the volunteers brought two crockpots of soup that she had made to share with the neighbors and other volunteers. Anyone who has helped out on giveaway-day knows how many people that accounts for, yet everyone had soup and we did not run out!!! Praise the Lord!!

Last year, over 850 children received toys! It is our goal that each child receive one larger gift item, two smaller ones, a stuffed animal or a ball, a book, a puzzle or game, stocking stuffers and candy.

As Giveaway day approaches, we will be in need of Christmas Gifts! If you plan to donate for Christmas, please remember that we will only give out wholesome toys that provide opportunities for imaginative play, creativity and family bonding, especially the classic-type toys and games that you or your parents may have played with - ones with positive, uplifting themes. Please avoid anything evil, magical, woke, etc. A good rule of thumb might be "What would the Child Jesus like for His birthday?" Or for girls, "What would our Lady like to play with as a child?" We ask that the dolls also be dressed modestly.

You know, there are few things that give a parent more joy and a sense of dignity than being able to give their child a special gift for the Holidays. Some of our families have even shared with us that without our giveaway, they would have had nothing to give their children for Christmas. One phone message from a mom, who was obviously crying as she spoke said, "Thank you for being Santa this year."

Far from contributing to the commercialization of Christmas, we have witnessed time and again that the dignity, joy and love that our neighbors receive through the sisters, volunteers and donors, really draws their hearts and minds to God.



Mary's BOOT  **Pro-Life CAMP**
Strengthening hearts for Christ



Students pray in front of Planned Parenthood

Born with a vision to empower and equip teens and young adults to become the pro-life leaders our world so desperately needs, the Sisters began Mary's Pro-life Bootcamp—a retreat style Pro-life training camp.

This year we had 15 teens and a number of young adults for our fourth annual bootcamp. The theme this year was "Pro-life heroes."

During the 5-day retreat, students learned from both national and local speakers about fetal development, abortion procedures, the effects of abortion on women, Theology of the Body, spiritual warfare, pro-life apologetics and more. Hearts were strengthened through Daily Mass, Adoration, Liturgy of the Hours, praise and worship, and Confession opportunities.

Troops went into action by praying outside Planned Parenthood, visiting a cemetery for the unborn and volunteering at the Rose Garden.

PT, Sports Tournaments and other fun activities were enjoyed by all. The camp closed with a family picnic, complete with skits written and performed by the students and "special forces" (young adults).

For information on Mary's Pro-life Bootcamp 2024, or to find out how you can get involved, please visit www.prolifebootcamp.org

Daily Mass



Moming PT



Adoration



Theology of the Body with Fr. Jonathan Meyer, Pastor All Saints, Indiana

Save the Date!
Mary's Pro-life Bootcamp
2024
June 27th– July 1st,
Holy Cross High School,
Latonia, KY



Spiritual Warfare with Rev. Robert Rottgers



Pro-Life Witness with Kelly Lester from And Then There Were None



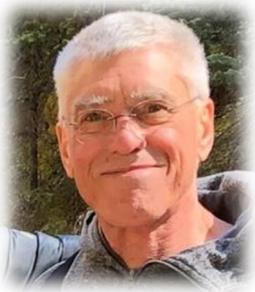
Pro-life witness with Roger Grein Founder of Magnified Giving



Abortion 101 with Mary Borchard from St. Gabriel McKinney, TX

Pro-Life Apologetics with Josh Braum from The Equal Rights Institute





Eternal Rest Grant Unto them, Oh Lord...

On July 18th, 2023, Mark Schaffeild, a beloved volunteer at the Rose Garden, passed away. Mark was always cheerful. He genuinely cared about everybody, and was one of those who would help with anything that was asked of him with peacefulness and a smile. He is greatly missed.

On August 19th, Carolyn Rennekamp, beloved Center for Hope and Healing volunteer, also went home to God. Carolyn has volunteered for years at our clinic and could often be found working the reception desk with a smile and compassionate heart for all. Carolyn is likewise dearly missed and the clinic will never be quite the same without her.



October 29th marks the one year Anniversary of Volunteer Anne Marie Gieske's tragic passing in Seoul, Korea. Her family has published her very uplifting and spiritual prayer journal. The website can be found at: www.annemariegieske.com

Rose Garden Center for Hope and Healing Health Ministry / Free Clinic

At Last!

Judy came to the health ministry where her blood pressure was so high they walked her right over to the clinic. Her blood pressure at home was "always good." She wanted to try diet and exercise to get it down.

A month later and 5 pounds heavier her blood pressure was still too high. She refused medication because a friend had started on blood pressure medication and then had a stroke from the medicine. We tried to educate and also referred her to the internet which she loved to use for "research."

Finally, another 5 pounds heavier she decided to try a low dose. She was given a blood pressure monitor to take home and use which she did – and recorded the numbers faithfully. With her vital signs now under control, she admitted "You said I would feel better and have more energy and now I do." Being able to take time with a patient, hear her, and give her the tools to improve made all the difference. So nice to hear "You were right! -Sheila Carrol, APRN



Blood Test



Doc and Daughter



Interpreting with a smile



Happy Birthday!



New Glasses

Dental



Everyone here is really nice and most of all patient! I always look forward to going to the dentist here.

Most pleasant around. This was my best dentist visit ever!

Good, good, good, good. Very good. Gracias. Thank you so much!

The care was excellent! The Dentist made feel very comfortable



Very clean & neat. Staff great!! Excellent!

Are you a medical or dental professional looking for a new way to serve the Lord and His people? Are you looking for a place to use your gifts among others who share your faith, your pro-life convictions and your passion for your patient's care and dignity?
 Write us an E-mail at rghmclinic@gmail.com or call (859) 261-0323 for more information on how you can volunteer at the Rose Garden Center for Hope and Healing!



Friends of the Rose Garden

Partners in Hope for the Poor

Held June 6th at "Receptions, inc." in Erlanger, KY, Our 2023 "Partners in Hope for the Poor" dinner was another lovely success.

Our Guest Speaker this year was one of our neighbors, Melody Maxie. She gave a very moving witness about how God's work through the Sisters and Volunteers at the Rose Garden has changed her life and led her to being Baptized at the Easter Vigil this year. Beyond helping with her physical needs and situations, it was the love she received from the sisters over the many years we have known her, but especially at a very dark and difficult part of her life that made all of the difference. In addition, she said, "the Sisters are al-

ways happy. I wanted some of that!" Going to church with the sisters, she found the joy and peace that the world cannot give (John 14:27), that comes only with a relationship with her Heavenly Father.

The other speaker this year was Fr. James Sitchko from the diocese of Lexington, a Papal "Missionary of Mercy."

Dr. Marguerite Schabel and Fr. Robert Rottgers were our honorees this year. Fr. Rottgers is one of the original members of our medical board. Shiela Carrol, Director of the Rose Garden Center for Hope and Healing, began volunteering at the Rose Garden at the suggestion of Fr. Rottgers, who told her "Go see Mother Seraphina; She'll put you to work!" and the rest followed from there.

Dr. Marguerite Schabel is our Medical Director and has overseen the operations of the Center for hope and Healing from it's beginnings.

A very big thank you to our Dinner Committee who work together to plan this event. Due to some recent retirements, most of the committee members were new this year, and they did a fabulous job!



Golf Outing 2023

Thanks to the leadership of Cindy Biecker and the Amazing Golf Committee, our Annual Golf Outing was another huge success! Almost sold-out in March, there were about 300 golfers who came to have great fun in support of the Mission. We were greatly blessed to have Bishop Iffert give the opening Invocation and Presentation to 10th Year Diamond Sponsors, Blue Star, Inc.

Thank you so much to our 2023 Golf Outing sponsors . . .

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City National Rochdale

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Deacon Barry & Cathy Henry

(Cont'd next page)

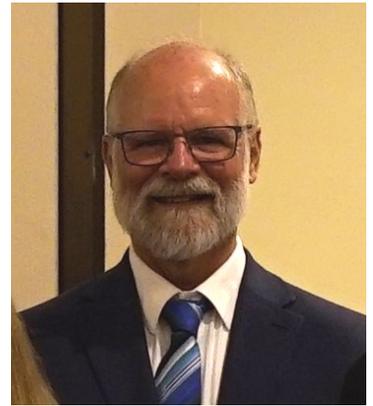




Since the Beginning

Let me introduce you to Greg Ionna (left) and Joe Bessler (right). It is because of these two men that there IS a Friends of the Rose Garden.

Both of these men have been involved with the Mission from the beginning, but when it came time for the Mission to move to a new location, it was the courage of these two - along with Shawn McCormick who lost a long battle with cancer in 2018 - who said "Yes" to Mother's idea of forming a fund raising Board called the Friends of the Rose Garden Mission, that led to the purchase the buildings and property we are now in!



It was an uphill battle from the beginning, for sure! One part of the building had a whole section that was burned out, one of the buildings was "condemned," there were floors with gaping holes that needed repair, a leaky ceiling, etc.—and every one of these challenges was met with determination and trust in the Lord God along with the kindness of many other friends to provide in every circumstance.

Words cannot sufficiently express the gratitude that we have for Greg & Joe!! They are more than friends, they are true brothers in the Lord!



C

onstruction for the addition on the mission building has finally resumed!!! PRAISE THE LORD!!

After a delay of about a year (due to zoning difficulties that halted the progress after the initial concrete was cleared away and the foundation was poured) we are back in business and the building is beginning to see it take shape! Huge "Thank You" to Kenton County Judge / Executive, Kris Knochelmann for interceding with the city at a critical moment that got things back on track for us!



The new building will join with the old Consultation Room to give us a much better space for Pregnancy Testing, informal counseling, New Baby Welcome Baskets, Baby Items, Storage and more! How wonderful Our Lord God is for making all of this possible!

"Trust in the Lord and do good, that you may live in the land and be secure. Find your delight in the Lord, Who will give you your heart's desire. Commit your way to the Lord, trust in Him and He will act." Psalm 37:3-5

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... *And thank you to all of the Hole Sponsors and those who donated silent auction items and in-kind donations!*



Thank You!

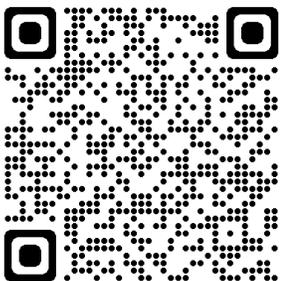
We are truly grateful for you! Your prayers, support and volunteer work are what make the works of the Franciscan Daughters of Mary and the Rose Garden Mission possible. You are always in our prayers.

The Lord Bless you and keep you!

The Lord set His Face upon you and be gracious to you!

The Lord look upon you kindly and grant you His peace!

-Mother Seraphina and the Sisters



Due to PayPal's hostility to Pro-life issues and recent policy changes, the Franciscan Daughters of Mary, the Rose Garden Mission and the Friends of the Rose Garden have switched over to Vanco.

If you would like to make an online donation, please see our Vanco account at:
<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z8CN/home>
or scan the QR code at left.

Thanks for your support!

In Addition, we no longer endorse the "Kroger's Community Rewards" program. Kroger, along with a host of other businesses, will pay up to \$4000 in travel expenses for employees to obtain an abortion.